

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 178226 TOSEC 080111

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178226 TOSEC 080111

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RO, ETRD, EEWT

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: OFFICIAL COMMENT ON
-- CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ROMANIAN TRADE
-- AGREEMENT (S/S NO.7515331)
FOR HARTMAN: DELIVER OOB TUESDAY AM
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LOWENSTEIN, THRU SONNENFELDT

1. THE PROBLEM

-- HOW TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATION COMMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL OF THE ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

2. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

-- TODAY'S HOUSE ACTION APPROVING THE ROMANIAN TRADE
AGREEMENT REFLECTS A RINGING CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF
AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION POLICY OBJECTIVE. THIS DEVELOP-
MENT, FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S SENATE VOTE AND ON THE EVE OF
THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BUCHAREST, SHOULD GIVE A FURTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 178226 TOSEC 080111

BOOST TO THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS
WHICH HAS OCCURED OVER RECENT YEARS.

-- WE HAVE FOUR OPTIONS IN COMMENTING PUBLICLY ON THIS

DEVELOPMENT:

- 1. A STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON TUESDAY.
- 2. A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ON TUESDAY.
- 3. A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY.
- 4. A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.
- OPTIONS 3 AND 4 HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF EXPRESSING THE PRESIDENT'S AND YOUR PERSONAL GRATIFICATION OVER THE ACTION' OF THE CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER LESS FAVORABLE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DECISIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE BOUND TO FOCUS SOME ATTENTION ON THIS DEVELOPMENT AT THE VERY MOMENT THE PRESIDENT IS MEETING BREZHNEV AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS IN HELSINKI. A STATEMENT ISSUED IN WASHINGTON, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT MAKE OUR POINT DOMESTICALLY WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD MOSCOW OR ANY OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRY. ON BALANCE WE TEND TO FAVOR OPTION ONE.

3. RECOMMENDATION: (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE)

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- 1) OPTION 1: THAT YOU APPROVE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT AT TAB 1 BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT TUESDAY'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

-- APPROVE DISAPPROVE

- 2) OPTION 2: A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ON TUESDAY.

-- APPROVE DISAPPROVE

- 3) OPTION 3: A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY YOU.

-- APPROVE DISAPPROVE

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PAGE 03 STATE 178226 TOSEC 080111

- 4) OPTION 4: THAT YOU RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

-- APPROVE DISAPPROVE

A DRAFT TEXT OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS ON TAB 1.

TAB 1

- I (THE PRESIDENT) (THE SECRETARY) AM (IS) EXTREMELY GRATIFIED BY YESTERDAY'S HOUSE APPROVAL OF THE US-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT. THIS ACTION CLEARS THE WAY TO EXTENSION OF MFN AND OTHER NORMAL TRADE TERMS TO ROMANIA AND IS IN

KEEPING WITH THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF US-
ROMANIAN RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS. ON THE EVE OF MY
(THE PRESIDENT'S) VISIT TO BUCHAREST AT THE CONCLUSION OF
THE CSCE IN HELSINKI, THIS EXPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL REFLECTS THE BROAD SUPPORT IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE
AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES FOR OUR (THE PRESIDENT'S) POLICY
OF PROMOTING CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
ROMANIA.

ALSO CLEARED BY S/PRS: ANDERSON AND S: P.BARBAN
INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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